(b) if so, whether Government would agree to provide a direct rail link between Kolkata and Balurghat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) At present, direct rail connectivity of through coach service of 5 coaches (3-secoiid class sleeper, 1-General second class and 1-General second cum luggage coach) by 3153/3154 Sealdah-Malda Town Gour Express and 621/622 Malda Town-Balurghat passenger are available between Balurghat and Sealdah.

(b) The matter is under examination to introduce direct train service between Balurghat and Kolkata.

Stoppage of express trains at Thana Bhawan railway station

†620. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of express trains passing through Thana Bhawan railway station in district Muzaffarnagar, U.P everyday;

(b) whether the express trains do not have stoppage on this station;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government would issue necessary guidelines to ensure stoppage of express trains at Thana Bhawan railway station with a view to remove difficulty of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) 4545/4546 Delhi-Saharanpur Express is the only Express train on Delhi-Shamli-Saharanpur section. The stoppage at Thana Bhawan has not been found commercially justified. At present, there is no proposal to provide stoppage.

Crossing on National Highways

†621. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is number of railway crossings on National Highways in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) whether his Ministry has prepared any plan to construct under/over bridges on the over-crowded railway crossings;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) what would be the share of State Government in the cost of construction of these bridges;

(e) whether the process of surveys for construction of these bridges has been completed; and

(0 if so, by when the construction work of these bridges is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The data of level crossings (LCs) is not maintained State-wise or District-wise instead it is maintained Railway Zone-wise. However there are 78 LCs on National Highways passing through Uttar Pradesh State.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.